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ABSTRACT

Selected resources of the New York State Library that document the achievements of African Americans in the arts, as well as the historical and cultural contexts of these achievement, are listed. In addition to primary sources and significant historical and critical works, the bibliography contains references to other bibliographies and research aids. Works are subdivided into primary works, biographies, history and criticism, bibliography, and reference in each of the following categories: (1) general (32 titles); (2) literature (189 titles); (3) music (78 titles); (4) performing arts (59 titles); and (5) visual arts (52 titles). The entries are indicative of African American artistic vitality and innovation. They highlight the long tradition of African American literature, its distinctive rhetorical devices and narrative forms, the current renaissance of African American literary criticism, and the concomitant rediscovery and reprinting of the works of pioneering African American artists. The entries also illustrate the achievements and special difficulties faced by African Americans in the visual and fine arts. (SLD)

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An African-American Bibliography: The Arts

Selected Sources from the Collections of the New York State Library

The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
The New York State Library
Albany, New York

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Reprinted 1993

The University of the State of New York
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INTRODUCTION

In celebration of Black History Month, the New York State Library is issuing *An Afro-American Bibliography: the Arts*. The bibliography lists selected resources of the New York State Library that document the achievements of African-Americans in the arts, as well as the historical and cultural contexts of these achievements. In addition to primary sources and significant historical and critical works, the bibliography contains references to bibliographies and research aids. Works dealing with such major African-American collections in the United States as the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature and History and the Black Culture Collection are also included. The bibliography highlights many of the New York State Library's collections, including the U.S. and New York State government documents collections, the microform collections, the play collection and the rare books collection.

The mission of the New York State Library is to provide reference, information and materials to support the work of New York State government and to ensure that every resident of the State has convenient free access to essential library services. To carry out this mission, the Library serves as the principal library resource for State government and serves as a coordinating and resource center for the statewide interlibrary loan network. If you cannot obtain the works listed in this bibliography at your local library, you may request them through interlibrary loan. Besides the bibliographic information, each entry in this bibliography contains the New York State Library call number in parenthesis. The use of this call number helps expedite the interlibrary loan process.

The African-American contributions to the arts are remarkable in their range and diversity, innovation and genius, and dynamic cultural influence on American society. The bibliographic entries on music — covering the field from spirituals to jazz, from classical to pop — and the performing arts are indicative of African-American artistic vitality and innovation.

In literature, the bibliographic entries draw attention to the long tradition of African-American literature, its distinctive rhetorical devices and narrative forms, the current renaissance in African-American literary criticism, and the concomitant rediscovery and reprinting of the works of pioneering African-American artists.

In art, the bibliographic entries illustrate not only the achievements but also the special difficulties faced by African-Americans in the visual and fine arts. In recent years, there has been a welcome and much-needed recognition of the work of African-American artists by curators, collectors, and art historians. This trend is increasing the number of publications relating to these artists and is an opportunity for libraries to strengthen and develop their holdings in this area.

This bibliography was compiled by Billie Aul and Melinda Yates, reference librarians on the staff of the New York State Library. The New York State Library would like to acknowledge the generous financial assistance of the Division of Intercultural Relations which makes the reprinting of this bibliography possible.

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This microfilm collection contains approximately 10,000 books, pamphlets, portraits and letters by and about African-Americans. Most of the items were collected by Henry P. Slaughter between 1900 to 1940. This collection contains many original works of fiction and music. The guide to the collection is listed below. See Jones, Robert A., ed.

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